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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

NOTIFICATION

*New Delhi, the 6th December, 1954*

**No. 44/5154-Public(C.A.).**—The President has learnt with deep regret of the death at 2-30 A.M. on Sunday, the 5th December 1954, of Shri Girja Shankar Bajpai, Governor of Bombay. By his passing away, India has lost an able and trusted public servant who had served his country with signal distinction in the international sphere.

Shri Girja Shankar Bajpai was born on 3rd April 1891 and after a brilliant career at the Universities of Allahabad and Oxford, entered the Indian Civil Service in 1914. His outstanding talents won early recognition and brought him unusually rapid promotions. At an age at which most civil servants were still considered too young to be given charge of districts, Shri Bajpai was playing an important part in the wider field of international affairs. During 1921-22, he served as Secretary for India at the Imperial Conference in London and at the Washington Conference for Limitation of Armaments. He was also deputed to visit other Commonwealth countries to investigate the conditions of Indians there. He was Secretary to the Indian delegation at the Round Table Conference on the Indian question in South Africa and Adviser to the Indian delegation at the Imperial Conference in 1926. At the early age of 36, he became Secretary to the Government of India in 1927. His services continued to be in demand in the international field and he participated with increasing responsibilities in successive Imperial Conferences, General Assembly sessions of the League

of Nations and Round Table Conferences on Indian reforms. After a long spell as Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and a short spell as Member of the Executive Council of the Governor General, Shri Bajpai was appointed as Agent General for India in U.S.A. and thereafter represented India on many important international bodies and conferences.

As the first Secretary General of the Ministry of External Affairs after Independence, Shri Bajpai organised the Indian Foreign Service and helped to establish the diplomatic missions linking India with a large number of other countries. His long experience and wise counsel were freely drawn upon in the field of foreign policy where his services were highly valued. After his retirement from the post of Secretary General he was appointed as Governor of Bombay in 1952.

Shri Bajpai was a man of wide culture, varied interests and rare social gifts and charm. As a civil servant he enjoyed a wide reputation for his clarity of thought and expression and the ability to grasp a situation quickly and to reach firm and balanced conclusions. As an example of the ideal civil servant Shri Girja Shankar Bajpai will long be remembered.

A. V. PAI, Secy.